

March Family Engagement Newsletter

Wiggin Street Elementary

207 Wiggin Street, Gambier, OH 43022

[Wiggin Street School](#) T: 740-427-4262

Principal: Dee Lowers

Dear Families,

Research has shown that family involvement and support is linked to improved student behavior as well as improved achievement test results, greater commitment to schoolwork, and improved attitude toward school. "When schools work together with families to support learning, children tend to succeed not just in school, but throughout life" (Henderson & Berla, 1997).

This month's newsletter is dedicated to ways our district and specifically Wiggin Street is working to meet the needs of students using a whole child approach. We want to ensure each child is healthy, safe, engaged, supported, and challenged, and we want to support you at home with resources.

If you have a topic of interest that you would like me to address, please feel free to contact me at <mailto:cgrandstaff@mvcisd.us>

Sincerely,

Christy Grandstaff
5th Grade Teacher
Administrative Intern

Latitudes

This site offers articles and natural therapies for key neurological conditions and disorders, but it also has resources such as behavior charts and tools for any child.

<https://latitudes.org/>



Literacy at Home

We hope that you have continued to keep your Reading Pledge from the Family Literacy Night as a goal. Here are some suggestions for ways to meet that goal:

- **Read with your child every day.** Whether it's after a long day at work and/or school, between practices or sporting events, or at bedtime, always have books with you to encourage the love of reading.
- **Take turns choosing books.** Enjoying old favorites can be fun, but also try encouraging a variety including new titles, nonfiction, poetry, etc.
- **Let your child participate.** Ask them to turn the pages, finish sentences that rhyme, or engage in a conversation about the theme or main idea.
- **Have fun!** Use different voices or change character's names to family members' names.
- **Remember that your child will learn to love reading because of the memories shared reading with you!**

School Safety

Rick Shaffer, Director of Maintenance for Mount Vernon City Schools, is dedicated to keeping our students safe. He trained staff at the beginning of the year to use the Navigate App and will be meeting with a committee of Wiggin Street staff this month to further the conversations.

[Rick Shaffer talks about School Safety](#)

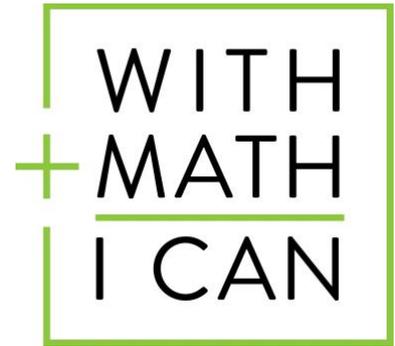
Ways to Help your Child at Home

- Encourage your children to talk about their concerns and express their feelings
- Talk honestly about your own feelings
- Validate your child's feelings
- Empower them to take action
- Discuss our school's safety procedures
[I'm Not Scared... I'm Prepared!](#)
- Create a safety plan with your child
- Recognize any concerning behaviors
- Keep the dialogue going
- Seek help when necessary (our school social worker, Sara Burke, can be a great place to start)
- sburke@mvcisd.us
- [740.427.4262 ext. 6625](tel:740.427.4262)

Positive Behavior Supports Initiative

Wiggin Street staff members have been meeting this year to develop a Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports (<https://www.pbis.org>) Plan to provide social, emotional, and behavioral support to our students. We have also begun implementing some of the lessons from the Second Step program that was purchased by the district this school year. Second Step teaches kids to learn empathy, ways to manage their emotions, and problem-solving skills through songs, games, role-playing, and guided discussions. A committee will be meeting to determine a scope and sequence for next school year for full implementation

[Second Step Overview Video](#)



According to a 2010 survey conducted "Change the Equation", over 50% of people in the United States ages 18-34 say they can't do math.

Please watch the following video to find out how you can pledge to help your child have a growth mindset and improve their math esteem.

Take the Pledge!

[With Math I Can Video](#)

Commit to a Growth Mindset for Your Entire Family

- Celebrate mistakes as opportunities to learn and grow
- Be confident and share your thinking
- Persevere through difficult practice